



2014 - 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM DREAMS TO REALITY: YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND



FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND DESIRE
TO STRENGTHEN AND PRESERVE OUR NATIONAL PARKS,
602,021 THANK YOUS

During the past fiscal year, \$602,021 was distributed to Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.* Your love and concern for these parks is tangible — you can see it, feel it, hear it, touch it — through the many projects that are now becoming reality in these precious places we all cherish. That's a record for Washington's National Park Fund.

You funded park scientists and researchers whose work can't wait. Your gifts supported marmot studies at Olympic, butterfly counts at North Cascades, and the release of fishers in all three parks. You helped grow citizen science programs so volunteers can assist park scientists as they accomplish their research. You also supported critical glacial studies, air quality analysis, and water assessments.

You made park visits safer and more enjoyable. Your investments in Washington's National Park Fund enabled us to fund trail restoration, campgrounds enhancements, and signage improvements. Your support also strengthens each park's search and rescue, RAVEN (roadside assistance by volunteers), volunteer beach clean-ups, and Meadow Rovers programs.

You empowered passionate park volunteers. Your support provided much needed dollars for trail crew leaders

and volunteer coordinators who manage the armies of passionate parks people who go to the parks to serve and give back. You also equipped the growing list of volunteers with two-way radios, sharp shovels and quality Pulaskis, wheelbarrows, watering tanks, and garbage collection gear for beach clean-ups. Hard-hats and work gloves too! While the parks have small supplies of these things, they didn't have enough to equip all volunteers. Now they do.

You made priceless memories possible for youth and their families. You strengthened Junior Ranger programs by supporting award-winning materials that touch the youngest of hearts. You funded transportation for school-aged youth who could not otherwise visit the parks. You supported powerful programs through Mount Rainier Institute, North Cascades Institute, and NatureBridge at Olympic National Park, touching hundreds of young lives.

Here's to the Parks! Most importantly, here's to YOU!

Bret Wirta
Board President

Laurie Ward
Executive Director

YOUR GIFTS BY SOURCE

- Spring Dinner and Auction (307 guests; in-kind support from BES Events, FREEMAN and Clatter & Din): **\$198,637.55**
- National Park license plates (5,405 in-state): **\$151,357**
- RAMROD (Ride Around Mount Rainier In One Day): **over the years, more than \$150,000 total**
- Local and national park foundations: **\$129,775**
- Fundraising climbs (Microsoft, REI and Point B climbers): **\$91,27.65**
- Parks' lodges guest donations (managed by ARAMARK, Rainier Guest Services, and Delaware North): **\$65,158.06**
- Change from Rainier and North Cascades park donation boxes: **\$35,790.41**
- Estate plans and memorial gifts: **more than \$50,000**
- In-kind contributions (time and talent): **\$25,143.95**
- Year-end appeals and online giving (monthly and quarterly donors — we appreciate you!): **priceless**
- You purchased a Subaru through Subaru of Puyallup, then chose Mount Rainier National Park as your grateful recipient
- You voted for your favorite park through Haggen's online contest

To view all of the projects that you've helped turn from *hopes and dreams* to *reality* over the years, please visit wnpf.org and click on YOUR IMPACT.

WHERE AND HOW
YOUR GIFTS WERE INVESTED*

In house, we affectionately refer to the four core areas that the three parks directly prioritize as SAVVY, an acronym for Science and Research, Visitors' Experiences, Volunteerism and Stewardship and Youth and Families. Following is a breakdown of the specific areas that benefitted from your generosity:

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

Fisher (from the weasel family) recoveries, marmot/elk migration patterns, butterfly counts, glacial studies, air/water quality analysis, and oh so much more.

\$14,000: Understanding Shrinking Glaciers (Olympic)

We funded a third year of glacier monitoring in the park. The discovery that glaciers are retreating more rapidly in Olympic National Park as compared to other locations has highlighted the need for annual measurements and ongoing monitoring.



\$17,250: Internship to Support Subalpine Restoration (North Cascades)

We funded a six-month youth intern to complete sub-alpine restoration and mitigate human impacts in subalpine habitats at Cascade Pass and the Sahale Arm trail reroute. This project will augment existing restoration work and involve the collection of seed and vegetative plant materials on site for propagation of 1,000 plants at the greenhouse. The intern will also work with the trails crew to complete a reroute of the Sahale

Arm trail while minimizing impacts and salvaging native plants for replanting after construction.

\$20,000: Stream gauge on White River (Rainier)

We funded the installation of a real-time stream gaging station on White River. White River drains the Emmons Glacier, the largest glacier by volume on Mount Rainier, and its downstream drainage basin is populated with many cities and industrial areas. Recent work on outburst floods and debris flows and the changing geomorphic landscape due to regional climate change is increasing the possibility that sudden surges of debris and water can be released from the glacier. Without real-time monitoring equipment, these surges are missed. Downstream impacts from these events can cause monetary damage as well as loss of life.

\$20,000: Restoring Fishers at Mount Rainier (Rainier)

Funded in part by Treeline Foundation and RAMROD/Redmond Cycling Club

The National Park Service (NPS) has partnered with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to establish self-sustaining fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) populations in the southwestern and northwestern Cascades of Washington State, including Mount Rainier National Park and North Cascades National Park Service Complex, for the purpose of contributing to the statewide restoration of this state-listed endangered species.

\$25,000: Wildlife Restoration in the Elwha Valley (Olympic)

We funded a two-year baseline study to establish a monitoring program for examining wildlife recolonization of the Glines Canyon lakebed and the impact that ungulates have on the revegetation program (hence, potentially impacting sediment stabilization and salmon restoration objectives).

*While these pages include the majority of funded projects, they do not include all.

\$40,000: Cascades Butterfly Project (North Cascades)

We funded a long-term, citizen science program that monitors butterfly populations in the northern Cascade Mountains of Washington. Monitoring is conducted in alpine meadows of North Cascades National Park Service Complex, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mount Rainier National Park, and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Volunteers survey butterflies and host plants along permanent survey routes once a week between snow melt and snow fall.

VISITORS' EXPERIENCES

From trail improvements, campground clean-ups, signage enhancements, and investing in search and rescue to supporting Meadow Rovers and RAVENs (roadside assistance volunteers) programs, we cover many bases thanks to you.



\$1,750: Search and Rescue Avalanche Course (Rainier)

We funded the cost of providing vital Avalanche 1 training to a minimum of five (5) new staff members. This training is very important for new emergency services staff who will operate in Mount Rainier's avalanche-prone terrain.

\$2,200: Building Exterior Camera System (Rainier)

We funded upgrades within Mount Rainier's antiquated exterior camera system, to survey the area surrounding its headquarters building. The previous system permanently lost its ability to record any of the photo data. This simple security upgrade addresses current federal building security expectations.

\$5,000: Digitize Historic Film Footage of Olympic National Park (Olympic)

We funded the preservation of historic film footage in digital format which provides copies for archival preservation as well as future accessibility and use. Migrating preservation

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copies of historic film to DVDs will make them again available for use. There is an abiding interest in park history and especially historic images. The park has standing requests for film footage which is no longer maintained in current technology. Researchers, park staff, and the general public benefit from the availability of historic film footage.

\$6,700: Grant for Level 4 Armor for Permanent Law Enforcement Ranger Staff (Rainier)

We funded 14 units of Level 4 armor, the standard of body armor required to defeat most types of commonly encountered rifles. The review conducted to analyze the facts surrounding the 2012 Ranger Anderson murder at Mount Rainier stated that level 4 armor ought to be made available to law enforcement staff.

\$7,000: Editorial Support for A History of the Glacier Basin Mining District (Rainier)

Between 1897 and 1930, sporadically to 1946, Glacier Basin was the site of the largest concentration of mining operations ever attempted in Mount Rainier National Park. Since abandonment, mining-related features and artifacts, many of which were left in place, have deteriorated from harsh winter conditions, and lack of maintenance or effective protection. Massive flooding in 2006 accelerated the loss of mining features and artifacts. The park's 2007 and 2013 projects provided basic archaeological documentation of remains still present at the time. Completion of a thorough history of Glacier Basin Mining, will, for the first time, provide an interpretive context for this important piece of Mount Rainier history.

\$10,000: Gear For Backcountry Rangers (Rainier)

We funded the purchase of Mount Rainier National Park's backcountry gear including packs, hydration systems, crampons, ice axes and helmets. This equipment is not funded by current budgets.

\$20,000: College Intern, Wilderness Permit and Reservations Online System (Rainier)

Additional funding to develop a new public facing online wilderness reservations and permit system, which will replace the outdated fax and in-house system. Visitors will be able to plan, request, and pay for their wilderness permits online. As part of the project, the park requires the services of a Cold

Fusion software developer to adapt a software engine currently in use at Canyonlands National Park. WNPf donor funds support a college intern, proficient in Cold Fusion, to do the actual programming work.

\$21,534: Swiftwater Rescue (North Cascades)

We funded the re-establishment of a river rescue program in North Cascades National Park, specifically for the Upper Skagit Valley. The park already possesses rafts and basic rescue equipment. Funding provides Swiftwater Rescue Technician training as well as additional cold water gear (drysuits).

\$25,000: Repair the Sahale Arm Trail (North Cascades)

Poor trail conditions, braided trails, and poor trail tread contribute to increased erosion and damage to native plant communities. Funding allows North Cascades National Park trails staff and volunteers to make necessary repairs to the trail, which will help protect the resources and enhance visitor safety and enjoyment. The Sahale Arm trail is one of the premier alpine trails in the park — in a park that is recognized nationally for its alpine vistas.

\$28,500: Wilderness Information Center Term Position (Olympic)

We funded the hiring, training and retention of a knowledgeable, highly trained person who can assist existing permanent and term staff in managing a wilderness safety program, build staff knowledge and experience in wilderness safety, wilderness travel, search and rescue, Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) and help provide training to new and seasonal staff in these areas. Each year, more than 40,000 visitors spend the night in the Olympic Wilderness with hundreds of thousands of day visits.

\$42,000: Spruce Nature Trail Bridge Replacement and Trail Rehabilitation (Olympic)

We funded the replacement of the failing log stringer bridge with a steel “I” beam bridge with cedar deck, bull rails and concrete footings. This project also improves drainage and tread on the 1.22-mile trail, adding crushed rock and raising the tread level in low areas and reducing resource impacts caused by visitors trying to avoid water/mud on the trail.

\$60,000: Helipad Reconstruction (Rainier)

Thanks in part to REI’s contributions, the park purchased and equipped a helibase operations trailer to serve as the office and communication hub at the park’s future helibase. A portion of these funds will be invested in the creation of a new helipad.

VOLUNTEERS AND STEWARDSHIP

Providing funding to each park’s volunteer program enables them to accomplish MUCH needed trail and meadow restoration projects. They’re able to educate visitors about the importance of staying on the trails so little seedlings have a chance. We also provide funding for pulaskis, wheelbarrows, watering tanks, butterfly nets, and garbage collection gear for beach clean-ups. We go as far as to provide funding for shovels, hard hats and gloves as not ALL volunteers come fully prepared.



\$800: Greenhouse Irrigation (Rainier)

The greenhouse facility at Mount Rainier National Park provides native plant materials and seed sourced from within the Park for vegetation projects carried out under the Vegetation Restoration Program, producing 50-100,000 plants (herbs, shrubs and trees) per year. During the growing season, volunteers, school groups and adult organizations come to the park to participate in growing native plants produced at the park’s greenhouse. Irrigation increases operational efficiency and flexibility, and simplifies tasks for staff, youth groups and volunteers.

\$24,000: Washington Trails Association District Leader (Rainier) We funded the District Crew Leader who helps lead volunteer crews that have been recruited through the Washington Trails Association organization to complete trail maintenance projects. This position supports volunteer recruitment and work — approximately 4,500 hours of trail work, or the equivalent of four paid trail workers.

**While these pages include the majority of funded projects, they do not include all.*



\$31,400: Meadow Rover/RAVEN Volunteers (Rainier)

We funded the hiring of a seasonal GS-7 Park Ranger to coordinate the Meadow Rover program at Paradise and Sunrise and the Emergency Roadside Assistance (“Raven”) program at Paradise. The person hired is responsible for training, coordinating, supplying, and supervising two volunteers to patrol roads and parking lots at Paradise from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and training and supervising about a hundred intermittent Meadow Rover volunteers. Funding pays for the supervisor and provides per diem, housing, a vehicle, and basic supplies for the two Raven volunteers.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Supporting the parks as they strengthen their Junior Ranger programs, bring in more youth through their relationships with numerous partners, and provide funding for transportation which is often TOTALLY unfunded for youth organizations and schools.



\$7,500: Field Trip Bus Transportation Subsidies (Rainier)

We funded the transportation for hundreds of K-12 students from schools without the means to visit the park.

It is especially important that we foster these connections to the park, and use Mount Rainier National Park as a classroom and living laboratory for learning about the planet as a whole.

\$13,000: Dark Skies Interpretation Support (Olympic)

We supported the park’s current night sky summer program, an ongoing and effective volunteer astronomy program, providing a dedicated summer seasonal park ranger (June-September) to work on the telescope session and full-moon walk evenings, as well as focus day time interpretive programs on dark sky themes.

\$14,800: Connect Youth with North Cascades National Park (North Cascades)

We funded transportation for more than 200 youth to visit the park through four partnership programs. Fifth grade students from Concrete and Darrington will attend Mountain School at North Cascades Institute.

\$15,000: Rangers on Campus (Olympic)

We funded a ranger to be stationed on campus and to teach alongside NatureBridge educators, bringing the “flat hat” to campus during the busiest spring season, from March through June. NatureBridge provides outdoor, hands-on environmental science programs for children and teens in “nature’s classroom.”

\$28,500: Education Ranger for School Programs (Rainier)
Funded in part by RAMROD/Redmond Cycling Club

We hired staffing to provide national park experiences to youth and their families who might otherwise never have such an opportunity. The Education Ranger enables the park to meet education and safety goals when we have student groups come to the park.

WHAT LIES AHEAD: PRIORITIES FOR 2016 AND BEYOND

- Building upon our strong relationships with park staff
- Learning about the larger needs of each park and sharing that information with hopes of fulfilling the parks’ greatest priorities
- Taking WNPF to the next levels which propels us toward a promising 25th anniversary celebration in 2018 and beyond
- Maintaining the strong sense of commitment and involvement found within Washington’s National Park Fund’s Board of Directors
- Revamping our public image with a refreshing logo and informational materials
- Expanding our outreach efforts. All too often we hear, “I never KNEW I could give to the parks through Washington’s National Park Fund”.
- Remaining committed to transparency and openness about what we do and how we go about it
- Building relations with more partners within the outdoor industry
- Continuing to grow as an organization in a thoughtful, strategic manner
- Showing our sincere appreciation to the thousands of friends who give to the parks

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**LOOKING BACK :
2014 - 2015 FINANCIAL RECAP**

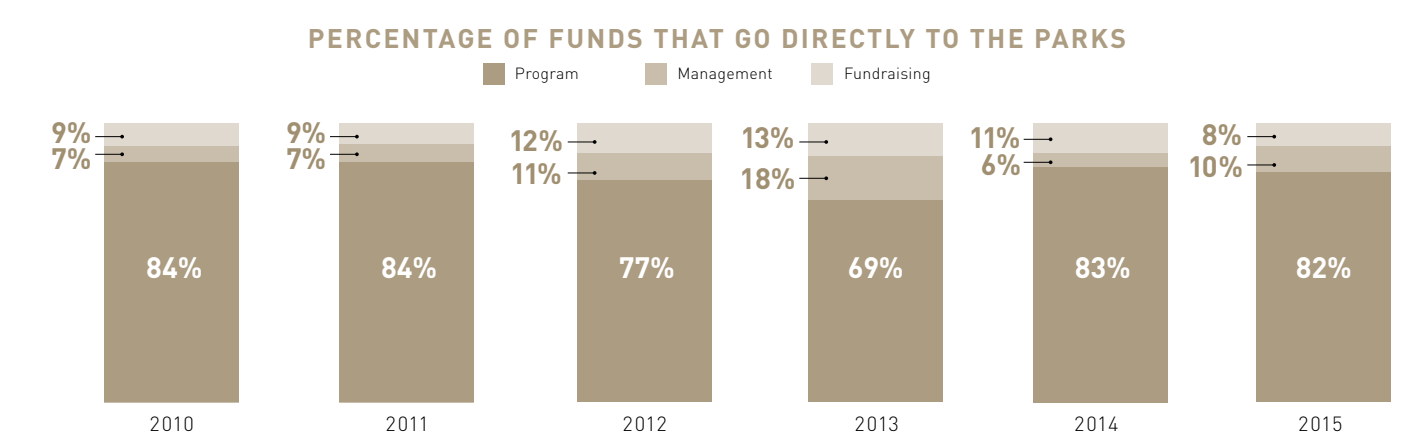
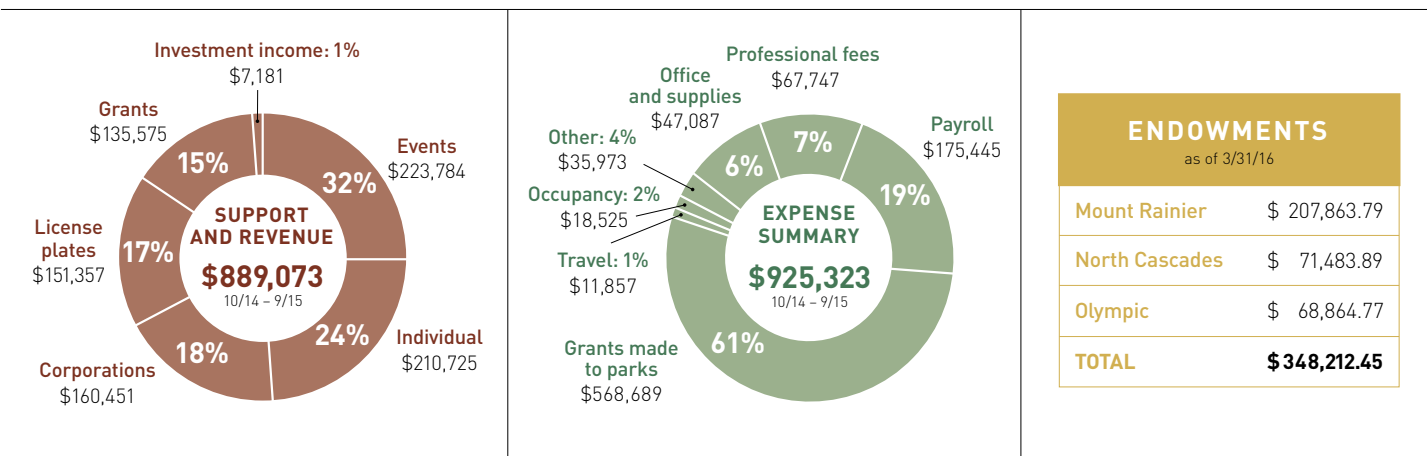
What an amazing and rewarding responsibility to provide support to Washington’s National Parks, the “crown jewels” of our state.

Over the past five years, Washington’s National Park Fund (the “Fund”), the nonprofit devoted to supporting Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks, has contributed nearly \$2.5 million dollars to your parks. In addition, the Fund established and oversees endowments that will provide lasting benefits for these three parks. As of March 31, 2016, the value of these endowments totaled nearly \$350,000.

To help maximize support for the parks, the Fund is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Fund’s day-to-day operations is skillfully managed by three talented full time staff. The staff operates on a limited budget with 80% of contributions going to park programs. Of the remainder, approximately 10% is devoted to fund raising and the balance supporting Fund management.

Thank you very much for your contributions! Together we help ensure Washington’s National Parks remain strong, vibrant and everlasting.

Members of the Board
Washington’s National Park Fund



According to trusted nonprofit “watchdog” Charity Navigator: “Our data shows that 7 out of 10 charities we’ve evaluated spend at least 75% of their budget on the programs and services they exist to provide. And 9 out of 10 spend at least 65%. We believe that those spending less than a third of their budget on program expenses are simply not living up to their missions.”

HOW CAN YOU SHOW
YOU CARE?

With your continued donations of time and treasure, needs that cannot be funded through existing budgets will be met through charitable support. Priorities for 2016 have been published at wnpf.org and today, passionate parks people are hard at work raising the dollars to fund as many of these initiatives as possible.

In celebration of the next 100 years for the National Park Service, leaders at Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks are working together now to identify the top, longer-term priorities for major philanthropic investments of \$500,000 up to \$10,000,000 and beyond. THIS is the direction we're moving.

Whether you give \$1, \$10, \$100 or \$1,000,000, this philanthropic support has a real and positive impact on Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.



Photo by Andy Porter

And remember: When giving to the parks through Washington's National Park Fund, you have several ways to make your contribution:

- **Give unrestricted.** Unrestricted gifts are used to take partially-funded projects up and over the top.



Photo by Laurel Mundy

- **Fund a project.** You and your family, colleagues, business or friends can choose to fund a priority project within your favorite park. To see a complete list of park priorities, see "Your Impact" at wnpf.org.

- **Choose a park.** You can choose to direct your funding specifically to Mount Rainier, North Cascades, or Olympic National Park.

- **Choose a funding focus.** You can choose to support one of the four key funding areas — science and research, visitors' experiences, volunteerism and stewardship, or youth and families.

- **Give for the long-term.** Choose to support your favorite park's endowment.

Donations by mail may be sent to:

Washington's National Park Fund
1904 Third Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98101

You may also contribute easily online at wnpf.org.

WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND
PARTNERS AND LEADERSHIP

PARK SUPERINTENDENTS



"We have in-park trail crews that are artisans. They work harder than anyone I know at maintaining the trails of the park but they can't do it alone. It would be impossible for us

to do the trail work that we need to do without volunteers. This is where Washington's National Park Fund plays a vital role. They raise much needed funding that enables us to bring in and manage the volunteers that our trail crew oversee."

— Sarah Creachbaum
Superintendent
Olympic National Park



"Our relationship with Washington's National Park Fund is a very strong one. In fact, it's a partnership. We work collaboratively together to advance the mission of Mount Rainier National Park.

Similar to the strength of our relationship, the importance and impact of donors' gifts on this park is growing stronger every year. Our staff find themselves renewed, and grateful, whenever one of the park's priority projects is funded. Thank you all!"

— Randy King
Superintendent
Mount Rainier National Park



"The relationship that we have with Washington's National Park Fund is a strong one. The impact funding has on our staff and ultimately our park visitors is deeply appreciated."

— Karen Taylor Goodrich
Superintendent
North Cascades National Park

2014 - 2015
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Your contributions are 100% deductible in accordance with tax laws. All gifts remain in the State of Washington for the sole benefit of Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks.

Tax ID: 01-0869799

We are a passionate supporter of sustainable natural resources. When you are done with this report, please pass along or recycle.



Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

Washington's National Parks Fund would like to thank photographer, **Stephen Matera**, for not only sharing his exquisite black-and-white images for use in our annual report, but also for his ongoing support for our parks and our mission.

All black-and-white images are ©2016 Stephen Matera Photography. All others used with permission from the National Park Service. All images in this annual report were photographed in Washington's national parks.



At Washington's National Park Fund, our dream for Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks is that they remain strong and vibrant; youthful and everlasting.

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